

# Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society — Kern County Chapter  
November/December 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be our last *Mimulus Memo* of 2008, and I want to thank Stephen Cooley

for being such a competent editor, and to also thank all of our contributing writers. This is the first year in my memory that we have had six issues, instead of four, a goal that was encouraged by several people, and carried out by Stephen. So thank you, Editor!

This fall we supported CAL-IPC by sponsoring their 2008 Symposium on invasive weed management with a donation of \$200.00. We could participate locally in the Kern County Weed Abatement group that meets in Tehachapi every third month if we had a volunteer willing to attend their meetings. Are there any Tehachapi area residents interested in doing this? This group works all over the county to protect our native flora, and it would be appropriate for us to participate once again.

I am hoping that many of you are planning to attend the CNPS Conservation Conference in Sacramento in January. This is happening due to a huge effort by many groups working together. There will be so much to learn about strategies and methods being used and tested by various public and private entities, some being local chapters, just like us! It should be an inspiring event that will charge us up to expand our work in Kern.

And, finally, I am encouraging every member to come forward and offer to take on an office on our Board. I am not going to be running for President next year, but plan to participate as the Conservation chair, if no

(continued on page 2)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kimberley Duncan	Robert T Owen
John & Suzanne Nind	Teri Vellutini
Peter Green	Lela Owen Pratt
Deborah M Olson	Michael Regan
Doug & Beth Schauzenbach	

## KERN CNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Lucy Clark
Vice President	Debby Kroeger
Treasurer	Harris Morris
Secretary	Laura Stockton

### Committee Chairs

Field trip Chairs	Yvonne Turkal
	Don Turkal
Newsletter Chairs	Stephen Cooley
	Linda Cooley
Membership Chairs	Linda Cooley
	Clyde Golden
Plant Sale Chairs	Debby Kroeger
	Bonnie East
Program Chairs	OPEN
Hospitality	Sasha Honig
Publicity	Debby Kroeger
Web Master	Stephen Cooley
Plant Identification	Denis Kearns
Conservation	OPEN
Rare Plants	OPEN
Plant Communities	Mary Warters

### DID YOU KNOW

that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices.

[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

Click on the JOIN button

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

one else wants to. We have not have anyone involved with conservation, and it is just going to become more and more important. I enjoy reading and writing letters, and hope to improve my speaking to commissions and councils. We also have had no Coordinator of Rare Plants. We will have an organizational meeting in January to which all will be invited, to work out our leadership positions, with an election to follow. WE NEED YOU! And it is fun to participate, meet new friends, and learn new things about California's native plants.

LUCY CLARK

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE A Call for Volunteers

Along with a new officer or two in CNPS next year, we are looking for a few volunteers to form a small program committee for 2009. If a few of us work together, we can share the responsibilities, thereby making arrangements smoother and more efficient. The best part of the job is to find SPEAKERS who have a passion for plants, wildlife, and the environment. Working as a committee, we should be able to brain storm ideas for our meetings.

Thanks to the work of Yvonne Turkal, we have a new venue, at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Building on L Street in downtown Bakersfield. She will rent it every month for us, so we won't have to worry about that!

Next, we will need program descriptions for our *Mimulus Memo* newsletter, and for Debby Kroeger's public relations contact list. Our speakers will give us a brief description of their talk, which we can use for these purposes.

Last, but not least, there are always a few final details and arrangements to keep in mind, such as AV equipment, maybe a dinner beforehand, and any other last minute details.

Overall, program work is very satisfying! You meet good people, you become inspired, and you are connected to a larger mission. If you would like to be involved with the committee, please contact me at lucyg391@gmail.com.

(This was adapted from an article by Julie Becker in the *Redbud Newsletter* of the Foothill Chapter.)

Lucy Clark

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## CNPS Conservation Conference

The CNPS Conservation Conference Silent Auction Committee seeks donations to help raise money for CNPS' conservation programs. The silent auction, drawing, and live auction will take place January 18. What can you contribute? There are no restrictions! Just think about what you might like to buy – artwork, books, photos, seeds, garden tools, anything nice! Perhaps you belong to a wine club and can provide a superb limited reserve bottle. Maybe a book signed by Ledyard Stebbins himself? What about an annual pass to our national parks and forests? Other ideas: a gift basket full of items produced locally, a week or weekend in a vacation home, binoculars, airline tickets, camera, a garden design by a landscaper, garden services, a lovely vase or pot, or a quilt with a plant theme.

You can find out more about donation ideas, the conference and CNPS at this website  
<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2009>

You can also donate directly by going to  
<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2009/auction.php>

I will be happy to collect donations from our area and take them to the auction in Sacramento. Please contact me if you have questions or donations: Rachel Hutchinson, [rahutchinson@gmail.com](mailto:rahutchinson@gmail.com) (NOTE: I will not be able to pick up items outside the greater Sacramento area)

# Thank You!

## Trips to get sale plants from Native Nurseries

Laura Stockton, Bonnie East,  
Dorie Giragosian, Lucy Clark

## Trip to Tehachapi for meeting on landscaping of new Veterans' Cemetery

Laura Stockton

## Hospitality

Debby Kroeger, Karen Meeks,  
Audrey Cochran, Dorie Giragosian,  
Susie Nind, Lucy Clark, Linda Cooley

## *Mimulus pictus* Name Tags

Clyde Golden

## Plant sale set-up

Debby Kroeger, Bonnie East, Harriet Morris,  
Stephen Cooley, Clyde Golden, Lucy Clark,  
Don and Yvonne Turkal, Laura Stockton

## Plant Sale

Bonnie East, Debby Kroger, Harriet Morris,  
Laura Stockton, Eve Lager, Kristin,  
Clarice, Marcy Hudlow, Lucy Clark

## MEMBER MEETINGS

**Sunday, NOVEMBER 23 - CNPS Annual Potluck**

**1pm at the home of Eva and Gordon Nipp**

(If you need Eva & Gordon's address, please email the editor: [MimulusMemo@bak.rr.com](mailto:MimulusMemo@bak.rr.com))

**SPEAKER:** Mike Stockton of the Bitter Creek Wildlife Refuge, USFAWS

Mike will bring us up to date on the status of the refuge established to provide habitat for California Condors. Those of you have been there know what a gorgeous place it is, located between the Carrizo Plain and Wind Wolves Preserve. It is a connecting link for Condors from the Carrizo to the Tejon Ranch, and on into the Sierra Nevada. Many other native species use this land also. Mike and the USFAWS hope to restore the land to a native flora in the future.

The Nipps have again graciously agreed to host our Potluck Dinner, for which we thank them. Their home is reached from HWY 178, near the mouth of the canyon, uphill on View. Please join us for our annual social event, and bring your favorite dish/es to share. We have scheduled this event in the afternoon so that our members who live outside of Bakersfield can carpool, attend, and start home before dark. Hope to see you there!

## DECEMBER

We will not have a meeting this month, but will start in January of 2009. Enjoy your holidays!

## NATIVE PLANT EVENTS

### **Growing Natives: Celebrating California's Beauty in Dry Times**

**March 28, 2009 - Lafayette Community Center, Lafayette**

**March 29, 2009 - Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley**

(Co-sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture*, CNPS and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden)

We are pleased to present a 2-day program of talks and workshops exploring the possibilities for creating beautiful waterwise gardens with plants native to California.

For more information, please visit

[www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org)   [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)   [www.pacifichorticulture.org](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org)

# Golly, Through November Take The Time To See *Wasp Galls* At Their Busiest In The KAWEAH OAKS PRESERVE.

Need to get away from your every day routine, take time to see nature at work. Galls are seen in abundance at the Kaweah Oaks Preserve and you only have to walk a short distance on level ground to the picnic area to see them. Once you arrive be careful where you walk as the jumping galls may be around your feet. Carefully break open a gall to find a mature wasp ready to emerge.

## **Directions to the Kaweah Oaks Preserve located 7 miles east of downtown Visalia:**

From Freeway 99, take Hwy 198 east towards Sequoia National Park, Turn north on Road 182 and Preserve parking is 1/2 mile north. Park your vehicle in the parking lot and walk over to the information sign. Notice the trail map, visitor hints and current policies. Enter the oaks preserve through the fence opening (cattle-proof) just to the left of the information sign



Urchin Galls



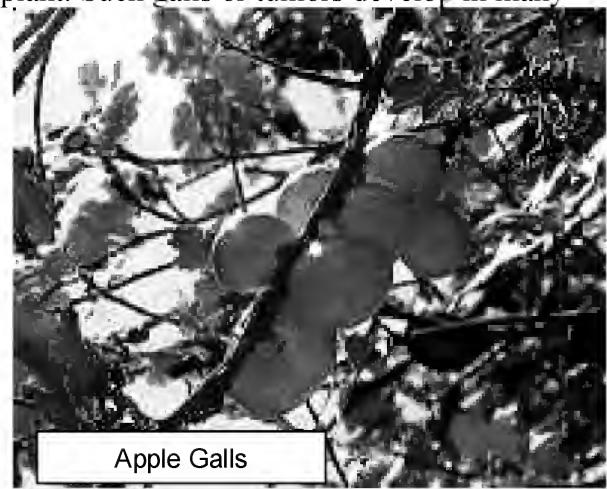
Hershey Kiss Galls

A Gall is an abnormal growth on plants often seen as a rounded swelling. They can form on roots, stems, leaves, and even flowers and seedpods, and range in size from tiny to enormous. Most galls are caused by *parasites* (organisms that feed and live on the plant), including animals, such as certain wasps and worms; fungi, such as smuts and some rusts; plants, including certain mistletoes; and various bacteria and viruses. The gall-causing agents produce chemical substances called *phytohormones*, which stimulate plant cells around the agent to multiply and become abnormally enlarged.

Abnormal growths resembling galls also may form as the result of a genetic defect in the plant. Such galls or tumors develop in many

plants produced by crossbreeding, including apricot, lily, tobacco, and tomato hybrids. These tumors are thought to result from an imbalance of phytohormones.

Some galls and the agents that cause them can seriously damage plants. For example, a species of worm called the rootknot nematode causes galls in potato, corn, and many other plants. The worm feeds on the plant roots, and the galls divert nutrients from the rest of the plant. Other galls benefit plants. For example, galls or nodules formed by *Rhizobium* bacteria on the roots of *legumes* (plants in the pea family) help supply life-giving nitrogen. *Rhizobium* converts nitrogen gas from the air to nitrogen compounds the plant can use.



Apple Galls

Studies of *crown gall* have led to the development of improved plants. (Large woody galls at soil line give name to crown gall.) This gall is caused by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, a bacterium that infects many kinds of plants. Upon infection, the bacterium transfers some of its genes to chromosomes of the plant. Using genetic engineering, scientists can alter the bacterium so it transfers genes that give the plant more favorable traits. In this way, researchers have developed disease-resistant varieties of crop plants.

**Gall information contributor:** Clarence I. Kado, Ph.D., Professor, Head Davis Crown Gall Group, University of California, Davis.

Submitted by Yvonne Turkal

## OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING



In September, our chapter meeting, "Gardening for the Birds", focused on attracting birds to your yard through the use of native plants. Marya Miller and Terri Gallion explained all the elements. To maximize the attraction of your yard, provide: food, water, shelter, perches, nesting materials and safety. Food sources should be provided year-round. The greater the plant diversity, the greater number of avian species you will attract. Berries attract the greatest number of birds. The two best plants: poison oak and elderberry! Water should be moving, not stagnant; a drip or a mist is best. A pond needs to be kept clean and a bird bath should be on a pedestal. Perches and snags provide places to sing, preen, to court and to guard their territory. Cats are the number one killer of songbirds. Place/ hang feeders in places that are inaccessible to cats, and clean them well and often.

With all this in mind, now consider the conditions of your yard. Plan your garden by grouping plants by their needs and maintenance requirements. Marya and Terri provided sample groupings with some plants that would be available at our sale. They did a terrific job; their program was greatly appreciated by all who attended. A time of questions, reference checking and refreshments followed. Thanks, Marya & Terri. Plus a special thanks to Lucy & Lora for gathering the plant materials.

– Debby



## SOME PICTURES FROM OUR PLANT SALE

There are some plants left over. If you were not able to come to the sale, or would like more plants a list can be seen on our website: seen on our website:

[www.KernCNPS.org](http://www.KernCNPS.org)

Interested buyers can contact Debby at home: [decay@att.net](mailto:decay@att.net)



## Havilah Resident Publishes Land Stewardship Handbook

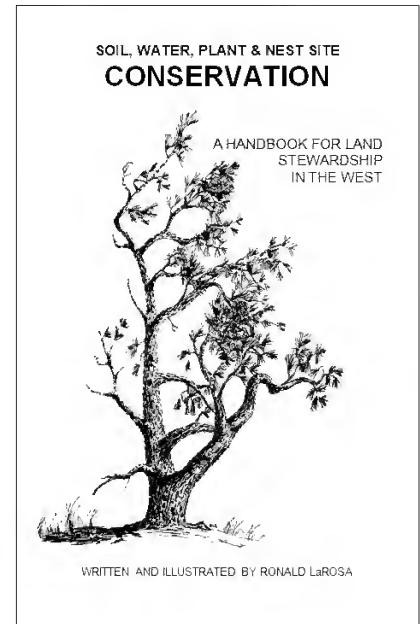
(from Richard Cayia Rowe)

One of the member of the Kern River Valley Garden Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KRVgardengroup/>) is **Ron LaRosa** who lives in Havilah, California (East of Bakersfield, North of Tehachapi & South of the Kern River Valley). I'm a friend of Ron's and he is very much involved in our local garden group. He'll do some kind of demonstration during the [LIVING GREEN IN THE KRV](#) event I'm organizing for March 27-30, 2009. Ron has just published a handbook trying to help people figure out how to better deal with their Kern County properties, rather than to hire a dozer to scrap it and start over trying to plant things that won't grow well here. It was printed in late June at Lee's Printing in Bakersfield.

Ron asks for a \$5 donation to the Kern County Chapter of the Delta Foundation to pay for reprinting the handbook.

More information, as well as an EXCERPT and ORDER FORM can be found at:

[http://krvr.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=1](http://krvr.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=1)



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## INTERNET EDITION

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through science, education, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.